

Message Text

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46

ACTION H-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 /015 W
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P 091813Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7662

UNCLAS PARIS 03998

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP, FR, US

SUBJECT: PARLIAMENTARY EXCHANGE

1. GENERAL PIERRE BILLOTTE, UDR DEPUTY AND PRESIDENT OF THE FRANCE - US FRIENDSHIP GROUP IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, HAS CABLED CONGRESSMAN WAYNE HAYS TWICE (DECEMBER 12 AND JANUARY 20) ABOUT POSSIBLE DATES FOR VISIT TO US OF FRIENDSHIP GROUP. SINCE NO ANSWER RECEIVED YET, GROUP HAS ASKED EMBASSY AND DEPARTMENT TO TRY TO MAKE CONTACT WITH HAYS OFFICE TO PIN DOWN DATES.

2. BILLOTTE AND HAYS HAD ORIGINALLY PLANNED ON MAY 16-23. HOWEVER, WHEN GISCARD'S VISIT TO US WAS ANNOUNCED FOR MAY 17-21, BILLOTTEE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE MORE CONVENIENT FOR U.S. CONGRESSMEN IF FRENCH CAME EITHER BEFORE (MAY 10-17) OR AFTER (JUNE 1-8). NOW, BILLOTTEE FEELS, IF ORIGINAL DATES DO NOT CAUSE ANY COMPLICATION FROM U.S. POINT OF VIEW HE WOULD PREFER TO STICK TO THEM. BUT HE NEEDS CONFIRMATION AS PARTICIPANTS ARE ALREADY STARTING TO OBLIGATE THAT PERIOD ON THEIR CALENDARS.

3. EMBASSY FEELS THERE MAY EVEN BE SOME ADVANTAGES TO PARLIAMENTARY VISIT OVERLAPPING WITH GISCARD'S DATES ESPECIALLY IF PARLIAMENTARIANS COULD BE INCLUDED IN ANY EVENT IN FRENCH PRESIDENT'S PROGRAM.

4. MANY MEMBERS OF GROUP ARE LEAVING FOR ANOTHER
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PARLIAMENTARY EXCHANGE VISIT NEXT WEEK-END. EMBASSY

WOULD APPRECIATE REPLY IF POSSIBLE COB FEBRUARY 12.
RUSH

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